Supply of contaminated drinking water in rural areas

1838. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1,95,813 habitations in the rural areas of the country have water affected with chemical contamination like arsenic, fluoride, salinity, iron, nitrate or combination of these;

(b) if so, the steps taken to address the issue; and

(c) whether contaminated drinking water is also being supplied in Delhi and if so, action taken to provide safe and pure drinking water in adequate quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of State Governments by rendering them technical and financial assistance. Upto 20% of the funds provided to the States under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are earmarked for tackling water quality problem like excess fluoride, arsenic, brackishness, iron, nitrate *etc.* under Water Quality Programme.

(c) Information is being obtained.

Insurance to rural households in rural areas

1839. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether majority of the households in rural areas do not have any insurance cover; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to ensure comprehensive cover to provide life, health, crop insurance to rural households?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) There are a number of insurance schemes for providing insurance coverage to various target groups of rural and urban areas. The Government supports and also pays a part of the premium in some of them to benefit the poor and unorganized workers. The **Janshri Bima Yojana** is applicable for the persons living below poverty line and marginally above the poverty line engaged in notified occupations. The workers/beneficiaries of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) are also covered in, 'Rural Poor' category subject to the eligibility norms. Under the **Aam Admi Bima Yojana,** members of rural landless households having age between 18 and 59 years are covered. Unorganised sector workers belonging to BPL category and their family members are the beneficiaries under the **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana.** To improve the coverage of BPL families, the **Universal Health Insurance Scheme** was redesigned making it exclusive for persons and families below the poverty line with a higher level of subsidy in premium. The **National Agricultural Insurance Scheme** aims to protect the farmers against the crop losses suffered on account of natural calamities.